

REMARKS

In the Specification:

Applicant has amended the specification to correct three instances in which the word "input" was utilized instead of "inputted".

Submission of Translation and Statement of Accuracy:

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicant herein submits a translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-114244 and a statement that the translation is accurate. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 16, and 20 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,102 (the "Ito patent"), and of claims 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, and 21 – 26 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the Ito patent and other references.

Response To The Examiner's Alternative Rejections:

In the Official Action of August 10, 2004, the Examiner also provided alternative rejections of claims 1-5, 7-9, and 13-20. These rejections were made pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of at least U.S. Patent No. 6,081,803 (the "Ashby patent") and U.S. Patent No. 6,061,646 (the "Martino patent"). Although the Examiner states that it would be obvious to "perform language selection directly through the speaking process," there is no suggestion to combine the Ashby and Martino patents. The Ashby patent relates to a navigation system in which one of a plurality of languages may be selected by a user. This selection process is accomplished through a menu on a display screen. (See col. 19, lines 1-12). The Martino patent does not, however, relate to a navigation system for use in a vehicle.

The Examiner's alternative rejections did not address claims 6, 10-12, or claims 21-26. These claims include elements relating to the ability to capture an image of a road sign and determine the language of the character string. Claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 16, and 20 have been amended to incorporate one or more such elements. Because the Examiner did not provide any alternative rejections addressing this feature, Applicant believes that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

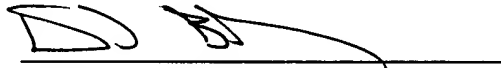
Further, the Urbach reference provided by the Examiner does not teach the address the capturing of an image of a road sign and translation of the character string in conjunction with the use of a vehicle navigation system.

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 16 and 20 have been amended as noted above. In addition, in claims 6, 10, 12, 13, 21 and 24 references to route guiding boards have been changed to refer to "road signs." As noted on page 20, these terms are intended to be synonymous. These amendments are not in response to any Office Action in this matter.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Bluestone', is written over a horizontal line.

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